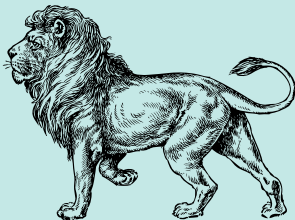


# HINDU FAIRYTALES



# THE LION AND THE CRANE



THE BODHISATTA WAS AT  
ONE TIME BORN IN THE  
REGION OF HIMAVANTA AS A  
WHITE CRANE; NOW  
BRAHMADATTA WAS AT  
THAT TIME REIGNING IN  
BENARES. NOW IT CHANCED  
THAT AS A LION WAS EATING  
MEAT A BONE STUCK IN HIS  
THROAT. THE THROAT  
BECAME SWOLLEN, HE  
COULD NOT TAKE FOOD, HIS  
SUFFERING WAS TERRIBLE.

THE CRANE SEEING HIM, AS HE WAS PERCHED AN A TREE LOOKING FOR FOOD, ASKED, "WHAT AILS THEE, FRIEND?" HE TOLD HIM WHY. "I COULD FREE THEE FROM THAT BONE, FRIEND, BUT DARE NOT ENTER THY MOUTH FOR FEAR THOU MIGHTEST EAT ME." "DON'T BE AFRAID, FRIEND, I'LL NOT EAT THEE; ONLY SAVE MY LIFE." "VERY WELL," SAYS HE, AND CAUSED HIM TO LIE DOWN ON HIS LEFT SIDE. BUT THINKING TO HIMSELF, "WHO KNOWS WHAT THIS FELLOW WILL DO," HE PLACED A SMALL STICK UPRIGHT BETWEEN HIS TWO JAWS THAT HE COULD NOT CLOSE HIS MOUTH,

AND INSERTING HIS HEAD INSIDE  
HIS MOUTH STRUCK ONE END OF  
THE BONE WITH HIS BEAK.  
WHEREUPON THE BONE DROPPED  
AND FELL OUT. AS SOON AS HE  
HAD CAUSED THE BONE TO FALL,  
HE GOT OUT OF THE LION'S  
MOUTH, STRIKING THE STICK WITH  
HIS BEAK SO THAT IT FELL OUT,  
AND THEN SETTLED ON A BRANCH.  
THE LION GETS WELL, AND ONE  
DAY WAS EATING A BUFFALO HE  
HAD KILLED. THE CRANE, THINKING  
"I WILL SOUND HIM," SETTLED ON  
A BRANCH JUST OVER HIM, AND IN  
CONVERSATION SPOKE THIS FIRST  
VERSE

"A SERVICE HAVE WE DONE THEE  
TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY,  
KING OF THE BEASTS! YOUR MAJESTY!  
WHAT RETURN SHALL WE GET FROM  
THEE?"

IN REPLY THE LION SPOKE THE SECOND  
VERSE:

"AS I FEED ON BLOOD,  
AND ALWAYS HUNT FOR PREY,  
'TIS MUCH THAT THOU ART STILL ALIVE  
HAVING ONCE BEEN BETWEEN MY  
TEETH."

THEN IN REPLY THE CRANE SAID THE TWO  
OTHER VERSES:

"UNGRATEFUL, DOING NO GOOD,  
NOT DOING AS HE WOULD BE DONE BY,  
IN HIM THERE IS NO GRATITUDE,  
TO SERVE HIM IS USELESS.

"HIS FRIENDSHIP IS NOT WON  
BY THE CLEAREST GOOD DEED.  
BETTER SOFTLY WITHDRAW FROM HIM,  
NEITHER ENVYING NOR ABUSING."

**AND HAVING THUS  
SPOKEN THE CRANE FLEW  
AWAY.**

**AND WHEN THE GREAT  
TEACHER, GAUTAMA THE  
BUDDHA, TOLD THIS TALE,  
HE USED TO ADD: "NOW  
AT THAT TIME THE LION  
WAS DEVADATTA THE  
TRAITOR, BUT THE WHITE  
CRANE WAS I MYSELF."**

# HOW THE RAJA'S SON WON THE PINCESS LABAM





IN A COUNTRY THERE WAS A RAJA  
WHO HAD AN ONLY SON WHO  
EVERY DAY WENT OUT TO HUNT.  
ONE DAY THE RANI, HIS MOTHER,  
SAID TO HIM, "YOU CAN HUNT  
WHEREVER YOU LIKE ON THESE  
THREE SIDES; BUT YOU MUST  
NEVER GO TO THE FOURTH SIDE."  
THIS SHE SAID BECAUSE SHE KNEW  
IF HE WENT ON THE FOURTH SIDE  
HE WOULD HEAR OF THE  
BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS LABAM, AND  
THAT THEN HE WOULD LEAVE HIS  
FATHER AND MOTHER AND SEEK  
FOR THE PRINCESS.

THE YOUNG PRINCE LISTENED TO HIS MOTHER, AND OBEYED HER FOR SOME TIME; BUT ONE DAY, WHEN HE WAS HUNTING ON THE THREE SIDES WHERE HE WAS ALLOWED TO GO, HE REMEMBERED WHAT SHE HAD SAID TO HIM ABOUT THE FOURTH SIDE, AND HE DETERMINED TO GO AND SEE WHY SHE HAD FORBIDDEN HIM TO HUNT ON THAT SIDE. WHEN HE GOT THERE, HE FOUND HIMSELF IN A JUNGLE, AND NOTHING IN THE JUNGLE BUT A QUANTITY OF PARROTS, WHO LIVED IN IT. THE YOUNG RAJA SHOT AT SOME OF THEM, AND AT ONCE THEY ALL FLEW AWAY UP TO THE SKY. ALL, THAT IS, BUT ONE, AND THIS WAS THEIR RAJA, WHO WAS CALLED HIRAMAN PARROT.

WHEN HIRAMAN  
PARROT FOUND  
HIMSELF LEFT ALONE,  
HE CALLED OUT TO THE  
OTHER PARROTS,  
"DON'T FLY AWAY AND  
LEAVE ME ALONE WHEN  
THE RAJA'S SON  
SHOOTS. IF YOU DESERT  
ME LIKE THIS, I WILL  
TELL THE PRINCESS  
LABAM."

THEN THE PARROTS ALL FLEW  
BACK TO THEIR RAJA,  
CHATTERING. THE PRINCE WAS  
GREATLY SURPRISED, AND  
SAID, "WHY, THESE BIRDS CAN  
TALK!" THEN HE SAID TO THE  
PARROTS, "WHO IS THE  
PRINCESS LABAM? WHERE  
DOES SHE LIVE?" BUT THE  
PARROTS WOULD NOT TELL  
HIM WHERE SHE LIVED. "YOU  
CAN NEVER GET TO THE  
PRINCESS LABAM'S COUNTRY."  
THAT IS ALL THEY WOULD SAY.

THE PRINCE GREW VERY SAD  
WHEN THEY WOULD NOT TELL  
HIM ANYTHING MORE; AND HE  
THREW HIS GUN AWAY, AND  
WENT HOME. WHEN HE GOT  
HOME, HE WOULD NOT SPEAK  
OR EAT, BUT LAY ON HIS BED  
FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS, AND  
SEEMED VERY ILL.

AT LAST HE TOLD HIS FATHER  
AND MOTHER THAT HE WANTED  
TO GO AND SEE THE  
PRINCESS LABAM. "I MUST  
GO," HE SAID; "I MUST SEE  
WHAT SHE IS LIKE.  
TELL ME WHERE HER  
COUNTRY IS."

"WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE IT  
IS," ANSWERED HIS FATHER  
AND MOTHER.

"THEN I MUST GO AND LOOK  
FOR IT," SAID THE PRINCE.

**"NO, NO," THEY SAID, "YOU  
MUST NOT LEAVE US. YOU ARE  
OUR ONLY SON. STAY WITH US.  
YOU WILL NEVER FIND THE  
PRINCESS LABAM."**

**"I MUST TRY AND FIND HER,"  
SAID THE PRINCE. "PERHAPS  
GOD WILL SHOW ME THE WAY.  
IF I LIVE AND I FIND HER, I  
WILL COME BACK TO YOU; BUT  
PERHAPS I SHALL DIE, AND  
THEN I SHALL NEVER SEE YOU  
AGAIN. STILL I MUST GO."**

SO THEY HAD TO LET HIM GO,  
THOUGH THEY CRIED VERY  
MUCH AT PARTING WITH HIM.  
HIS FATHER GAVE HIM FINE  
CLOTHES TO WEAR, AND A FINE  
HORSE. AND HE TOOK HIS GUN,  
AND HIS BOW AND ARROWS,  
AND A GREAT MANY OTHER  
WEAPONS, "FOR," HE SAID, "I  
MAY WANT THEM." HIS  
FATHER, TOO, GAVE HIM  
PLENTY OF RUPEES.



THEN HE HIMSELF GOT HIS  
HORSE ALL READY FOR THE  
JOURNEY, AND HE SAID GOOD-  
BYE TO HIS FATHER AND  
MOTHER; AND HIS MOTHER  
TOOK HER HANDKERCHIEF AND  
WRAPPED SOME SWEETMEATS  
IN IT, AND GAVE IT TO HER  
SON. "MY CHILD," SHE SAID TO  
HIM, "WHEN YOU ARE HUNGRY  
EAT SOME OF THESE  
SWEETMEATS."

HE THEN SET OUT ON HIS  
JOURNEY, AND RODE ON AND  
ON TILL HE CAME TO A JUNGLE  
IN WHICH WERE A TANK AND  
SHADY TREES. HE BATHED  
HIMSELF AND HIS HORSE IN  
THE TANK, AND THEN SAT  
DOWN UNDER A TREE. "NOW,"  
HE SAID TO HIMSELF, "I WILL  
EAT SOME OF THE  
SWEETMEATS MY MOTHER  
GAVE ME, AND I WILL DRINK  
SOME WATER, AND THEN I WILL  
CONTINUE MY JOURNEY."

HE OPENED HIS  
HANDKERCHIEF, AND TOOK OUT  
A SWEETMEAT. HE FOUND AN  
ANT IN IT. HE TOOK OUT  
ANOTHER. THERE WAS AN ANT  
IN THAT ONE TOO. SO HE LAID  
THE TWO SWEETMEATS ON THE  
GROUND, AND HE TOOK OUT  
ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER, AND  
ANOTHER, UNTIL HE HAD  
TAKEN THEM ALL OUT; BUT IN  
EACH HE FOUND AN ANT.

**"NEVER MIND," HE SAID, "I  
WON'T EAT THE SWEETMEATS;  
THE ANTS SHALL EAT THEM."**

**THEN THE ANT-RAJA CAME  
AND STOOD BEFORE HIM AND  
SAID, "YOU HAVE BEEN GOOD  
TO US. IF EVER YOU ARE IN  
TROUBLE, THINK OF ME AND  
WE WILL COME TO YOU."**

THE RAJA'S SON THANKED HIM, MOUNTED HIS HORSE AND CONTINUED HIS JOURNEY. HE RODE ON AND ON UNTIL HE CAME TO ANOTHER JUNGLE, AND THERE HE SAW A TIGER WHO HAD A THORN IN HIS FOOT, AND WAS ROARING LOUDLY FROM THE PAIN.

"WHY DO YOU ROAR LIKE THAT?" SAID THE YOUNG RAJA. "WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?"

"I HAVE HAD A THORN IN MY  
FOOT FOR TWELVE YEARS,"  
ANSWERED THE TIGER, "AND IT  
HURTS ME SO; THAT IS WHY I  
ROAR."

"WELL," SAID THE RAJA'S SON,  
"I WILL TAKE IT OUT FOR YOU.  
BUT PERHAPS, AS YOU ARE A  
TIGER, WHEN I HAVE MADE YOU  
WELL, YOU WILL EAT ME?"

"OH, NO," SAID THE TIGER, "I  
WON'T EAT YOU. DO MAKE ME  
WELL."

THEN THE PRINCE TOOK A  
LITTLE KNIFE FROM HIS  
POCKET, AND CUT THE THORN  
OUT OF THE TIGER'S FOOT;  
BUT WHEN HE CUT, THE TIGER  
ROARED LOUDER THAN EVER—  
SO LOUD THAT HIS WIFE HEARD  
HIM IN THE NEXT JUNGLE, AND  
CAME BOUNDING ALONG TO  
SEE WHAT WAS THE MATTER.  
THE TIGER SAW HER COMING,  
AND HID THE PRINCE IN THE  
JUNGLE, SO THAT SHE SHOULD  
NOT SEE HIM.

**"WHAT MAN HURT YOU THAT  
YOU ROARED SO LOUD?" SAID  
THE WIFE. "NO ONE HURT ME,"  
ANSWERED THE HUSBAND;  
"BUT A RAJA'S SON CAME AND  
TOOK THE THORN OUT OF MY  
FOOT."**



**"WHERE IS HE? SHOW HIM TO  
ME," SAID HIS WIFE.**

**"IF YOU PROMISE NOT TO KILL  
HIM, I WILL CALL HIM," SAID  
THE TIGER.**

**"I WON'T KILL HIM; ONLY LET  
ME SEE HIM," ANSWERED HIS  
WIFE.**

THEN THE TIGER CALLED THE  
RAJA'S SON, AND WHEN HE  
CAME THE TIGER AND HIS WIFE  
MADE HIM A GREAT MANY  
SALAAMS. THEN THEY GAVE  
HIM A GOOD DINNER, AND HE  
STAYED WITH THEM FOR THREE  
DAYS. EVERY DAY HE LOOKED  
AT THE TIGER'S FOOT, AND THE  
THIRD DAY IT WAS QUITE  
HEALED. THEN HE SAID GOOD-  
BYE TO THE TIGERS, AND THE  
TIGER SAID TO HIM, "IF EVER  
YOU ARE IN TROUBLE, THINK  
OF ME, AND WE WILL COME TO  
YOU."

THE RAJA'S SON RODE ON AND  
ON TILL HE CAME TO A THIRD  
JUNGLE. HERE HE FOUND FOUR  
FAKIRS WHOSE TEACHER AND  
MASTER HAD DIED, AND HAD  
LEFT FOUR THINGS,—A BED,  
WHICH CARRIED WHOEVER SAT  
ON IT WHITHERSOEVER HE  
WISHED TO GO; A BAG, THAT  
GAVE ITS OWNER WHATEVER  
HE WANTED, JEWELS, FOOD, OR  
CLOTHES;

A STONE BOWL THAT GAVE ITS  
OWNER AS MUCH WATER AS HE  
WANTED, NO MATTER HOW FAR  
HE MIGHT BE FROM A TANK;  
AND A STICK AND ROPE, TO  
WHICH ITS OWNER HAD ONLY  
TO SAY, IF ANY ONE CAME TO  
MAKE WAR ON HIM, "STICK,  
BEAT AS MANY MEN AND  
SOLDIERS AS ARE HERE," AND  
THE STICK WOULD BEAT THEM  
AND THE ROPE WOULD TIE  
THEM UP.

THE FOUR FAKIRS WERE  
QUARRELLING OVER THESE  
FOUR THINGS. ONE SAID, "I  
WANT THIS;" ANOTHER SAID,  
"YOU CANNOT HAVE IT, FOR I  
WANT IT;" AND SO ON.

THE RAJA'S SON SAID TO  
THEM, "DO NOT QUARREL FOR  
THESE THINGS. I WILL SHOOT  
FOUR ARROWS IN FOUR  
DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

WHICHEVER OF YOU GETS TO MY FIRST ARROW, SHALL HAVE THE FIRST THING—THE BED.

WHOSOEVER GETS TO THE SECOND ARROW, SHALL HAVE THE SECOND THING—THE BAG.

HE WHO GETS TO THE THIRD ARROW, SHALL HAVE THE THIRD THING—THE BOWL. AND HE WHO GETS TO THE FOURTH ARROW, SHALL HAVE THE LAST THINGS—THE STICK AND

ROPE." TO THIS THEY AGREED, AND THE PRINCE SHOT OFF HIS FIRST ARROW. AWAY RACED THE FAKIRS TO GET IT.

WHEN THEY BROUGHT IT BACK  
TO HIM HE SHOT OFF THE  
SECOND, AND WHEN THEY HAD  
FOUND AND BROUGHT IT TO  
HIM HE SHOT OFF HIS THIRD,  
AND WHEN THEY HAD BROUGHT  
HIM THE THIRD HE SHOT OFF  
THE FOURTH.

WHILE THEY WERE AWAY  
LOOKING FOR THE FOURTH  
ARROW THE RAJA'S SON LET  
HIS HORSE LOOSE IN THE  
JUNGLE, AND SAT ON THE BED,  
TAKING THE BOWL, THE STICK  
AND ROPE, AND THE BAG WITH  
HIM.

THEN HE SAID, "BED, I WISH TO GO TO THE PRINCESS LABAM'S COUNTRY." THE LITTLE BED INSTANTLY ROSE UP INTO THE AIR AND BEGAN TO FLY, AND IT FLEW AND FLEW TILL IT CAME TO THE PRINCESS LABAM'S COUNTRY, WHERE IT SETTLED ON THE GROUND. THE RAJA'S SON ASKED SOME MEN HE SAW, "WHOSE COUNTRY IS THIS?"



"THE PRINCESS LABAM'S  
COUNTRY," THEY ANSWERED.  
THEN THE PRINCE WENT ON  
TILL HE CAME TO A HOUSE  
WHERE HE SAW AN OLD  
WOMAN.

"WHO ARE YOU?" SHE SAID.  
"WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?"

"I COME FROM A FAR  
COUNTRY," HE SAID; "DO LET  
ME STAY WITH YOU TO-  
NIGHT."

**"NO," SHE ANSWERED, "I  
CANNOT LET YOU STAY WITH  
ME; FOR OUR KING HAS  
ORDERED THAT MEN FROM  
OTHER COUNTRIES MAY NOT  
STAY IN HIS COUNTRY. YOU  
CANNOT STAY IN MY HOUSE."**

**"YOU ARE MY AUNTY," SAID  
THE PRINCE: "LET ME REMAIN  
WITH YOU FOR THIS ONE  
NIGHT. YOU SEE IT IS EVENING,  
AND IF I GO INTO THE JUNGLE,  
THEN THE WILD BEASTS WILL  
EAT ME."**

**"WELL," SAID THE OLD  
WOMAN, "YOU MAY STAY HERE  
TO-NIGHT; BUT TO-MORROW  
MORNING YOU MUST GO AWAY,  
FOR IF THE KING HEARS YOU  
HAVE PASSED THE NIGHT IN MY  
HOUSE, HE WILL HAVE ME  
SEIZED AND PUT INTO PRISON."**

THEN SHE TOOK HIM INTO HER HOUSE, AND THE RAJA'S SON WAS VERY GLAD. THE OLD WOMAN BEGAN PREPARING DINNER, BUT HE STOPPED HER, "AUNTY," HE SAID, "I WILL GIVE YOU FOOD." HE PUT HIS HAND INTO HIS BAG, SAYING, "BAG, I WANT SOME DINNER," AND THE BAG GAVE HIM INSTANTLY A DELICIOUS DINNER, SERVED UP ON TWO GOLD PLATES. THE OLD WOMAN AND THE RAJA'S SON THEN DINED TOGETHER.

WHEN THEY HAD FINISHED EATING, THE OLD WOMAN SAID, "NOW I WILL FETCH SOME WATER."

"DON'T GO," SAID THE PRINCE. "YOU SHALL HAVE PLENTY OF WATER DIRECTLY." SO HE TOOK HIS BOWL AND SAID TO IT, "BOWL, I WANT SOME WATER," AND THEN IT FILLED WITH WATER. WHEN IT WAS FULL, THE PRINCE CRIED OUT, "STOP, BOWL," AND THE BOWL STOPPED FILLING. "SEE, AUNTY," HE SAID, "WITH THIS BOWL I CAN ALWAYS GET AS MUCH WATER AS I WANT."

BY THIS TIME NIGHT HAD COME. "AUNTY," SAID THE RAJA'S SON, "WHY DON'T YOU LIGHT A LAMP?"

"THERE IS NO NEED," SHE SAID. "OUR KING HAS FORBIDDEN THE PEOPLE IN HIS COUNTRY TO LIGHT ANY LAMPS; FOR, AS SOON AS IT IS DARK, HIS DAUGHTER, THE PRINCESS LABAM, COMES AND SITS ON HER ROOF, AND SHE SHINES SO THAT SHE LIGHTS UP ALL THE COUNTRY AND OUR HOUSES, AND WE CAN SEE TO DO OUR WORK AS IF IT WERE DAY."

WHEN IT WAS QUITE BLACK NIGHT  
THE PRINCESS GOT UP. SHE DRESSED  
HERSELF IN HER RICH CLOTHES AND  
JEWELS, AND ROLLED UP HER HAIR,  
AND ACROSS HER HEAD SHE PUT A  
BAND OF DIAMONDS AND PEARLS.  
THEN SHE SHONE LIKE THE MOON, AND  
HER BEAUTY MADE NIGHT DAY. SHE  
CAME OUT OF HER ROOM, AND SAT ON  
THE ROOF OF HER PALACE. IN THE  
DAYTIME SHE NEVER CAME OUT OF  
HER HOUSE; SHE ONLY CAME OUT AT  
NIGHT. ALL THE PEOPLE IN HER  
FATHER'S COUNTRY THEN WENT  
ABOUT THEIR WORK AND FINISHED IT.

THE RAJA'S SON WATCHED THE  
PRINCESS QUIETLY, AND WAS VERY  
HAPPY. HE SAID TO HIMSELF, "HOW  
LOVELY SHE IS!"

AT MIDNIGHT, WHEN EVERYBODY HAD GONE TO BED, THE PRINCESS CAME DOWN FROM HER ROOF, AND WENT TO HER ROOM; AND WHEN SHE WAS IN BED AND ASLEEP, THE RAJA'S SON GOT UP SOFTLY, AND SAT ON HIS BED. "BED," HE SAID TO IT, "I WANT TO GO TO THE PRINCESS LABAM'S BED-ROOM." SO THE LITTLE BED CARRIED HIM TO THE ROOM WHERE SHE LAY FAST ASLEEP. THE YOUNG RAJA TOOK HIS BAG AND SAID, "I WANT A GREAT DEAL OF BETEL-LEAF," AND IT AT ONCE GAVE HIM QUANTITIES OF BETEL-LEAF. THIS HE LAID NEAR THE PRINCESS'S BED, AND THEN HIS LITTLE BED CARRIED HIM BACK TO THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE.



NEXT MORNING ALL THE PRINCESS'S SERVANTS FOUND THE BETEL-LEAF, AND BEGAN TO EAT IT. "WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THAT BETEL-LEAF?"

ASKED THE PRINCESS.

"WE FOUND IT NEAR YOUR BED," ANSWERED THE SERVANTS. NOBODY KNEW THE PRINCE HAD COME IN THE NIGHT AND PUT IT ALL THERE.

IN THE MORNING THE OLD WOMAN CAME TO THE RAJA'S SON. "NOW IT IS MORNING," SHE SAID, "AND YOU MUST GO; FOR IF THE KING FINDS OUT ALL I HAVE DONE FOR YOU, HE WILL SEIZE ME."

**"I AM ILL TO-DAY, DEAR AUNTY," SAID  
THE PRINCE; "DO LET ME STAY TILL  
TO-MORROW MORNING."**

**"GOOD," SAID THE OLD WOMAN. SO HE  
STAYED, AND THEY TOOK THEIR  
DINNER OUT OF THE BAG, AND THE  
BOWL GAVE THEM WATER.**

WHEN NIGHT CAME THE PRINCESS GOT UP AND SAT ON HER ROOF, AND AT TWELVE O'CLOCK, WHEN EVERY ONE WAS IN BED, SHE WENT TO HER BED-ROOM, AND WAS SOON FAST ASLEEP. THEN THE RAJA'S SON SAT ON HIS BED, AND IT CARRIED HIM TO THE PRINCESS. HE TOOK HIS BAG AND SAID, "BAG, I WANT A MOST LOVELY SHAWL." IT GAVE HIM A SPLENDID SHAWL, AND HE SPREAD IT OVER THE PRINCESS AS SHE LAY ASLEEP. THEN HE WENT BACK TO THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE AND SLEPT TILL MORNING.

IN THE MORNING, WHEN THE PRINCESS SAW THE SHAWL SHE WAS DELIGHTED. "SEE, MOTHER," SHE SAID: "KHUDA MUST HAVE GIVEN ME THIS SHAWL, IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL." HER MOTHER WAS VERY GLAD TOO.

**"YES, MY CHILD," SHE SAID: "KHUDA  
MUST HAVE GIVEN YOU THIS SPLENDID  
SHAWL."**

**WHEN IT WAS MORNING THE OLD  
WOMAN SAID TO THE RAJA'S SON,  
"NOW YOU MUST REALLY GO."  
"AUNTY," HE ANSWERED, "I AM NOT  
WELL ENOUGH YET. LET ME STAY A  
FEW DAYS LONGER. I WILL REMAIN  
HIDDEN IN YOUR HOUSE, SO THAT NO  
ONE MAY SEE ME." SO THE OLD  
WOMAN LET HIM STAY.**

WHEN IT WAS BLACK NIGHT, THE PRINCESS PUT ON HER LOVELY CLOTHES AND JEWELS, AND SAT ON HER ROOF. AT MIDNIGHT SHE WENT TO HER ROOM AND WENT TO SLEEP. THEN THE RAJA'S SON SAT ON HIS BED AND FLEW TO HER BED-ROOM. THERE HE SAID TO HIS BAG, "BAG, I WANT A VERY, VERY BEAUTIFUL RING." THE BAG GAVE HIM A GLORIOUS RING. THEN HE TOOK THE PRINCESS LABAM'S HAND GENTLY TO PUT ON THE RING, AND SHE STARTED UP VERY MUCH FRIGHTENED.

"WHO ARE YOU?" SHE SAID TO THE PRINCE. "WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? WHY DO YOU COME TO MY ROOM?"

**"DO NOT BE AFRAID, PRINCESS," HE SAID; "I AM NO THIEF. I AM A GREAT RAJA'S SON. HIRAMAN PARROT, WHO LIVES IN THE JUNGLE WHERE I WENT TO HUNT, TOLD ME YOUR NAME, AND THEN I LEFT MY FATHER AND MOTHER, AND CAME TO SEE YOU."**

**"WELL," SAID THE PRINCESS, "AS YOU ARE THE SON OF SUCH A GREAT RAJA, I WILL NOT HAVE YOU KILLED, AND I WILL TELL MY FATHER AND MOTHER THAT I WISH TO MARRY YOU."**

THE PRINCE THEN RETURNED TO THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE; AND WHEN MORNING CAME THE PRINCESS SAID TO HER MOTHER, "THE SON OF A GREAT RAJA HAS COME TO THIS COUNTRY, AND I WISH TO MARRY HIM." HER MOTHER TOLD THIS TO THE KING. "GOOD," SAID THE KING; "BUT IF THIS RAJA'S SON WISHES TO MARRY MY DAUGHTER, HE MUST FIRST DO WHATEVER I BID HIM. IF HE FAILS I WILL KILL HIM. I WILL GIVE HIM EIGHTY POUNDS WEIGHT OF MUSTARD SEED, AND OUT OF THIS HE MUST CRUSH THE OIL IN ONE DAY. IF HE CANNOT DO THIS HE SHALL DIE."

IN THE MORNING THE RAJA'S SON TOLD THE OLD WOMAN THAT HE INTENDED TO MARRY THE PRINCESS. "OH," SAID THE OLD WOMAN, "GO AWAY FROM THIS COUNTRY, AND DO NOT THINK OF MARRYING HER. A GREAT MANY RAJAS AND RAJAS' SONS HAVE COME HERE TO MARRY HER, AND HER FATHER HAS HAD THEM ALL KILLED. HE SAYS WHOEVER WISHES TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER MUST FIRST DO WHATEVER HE BIDS HIM. IF HE CAN, THEN HE SHALL MARRY THE PRINCESS; IF HE CANNOT, THE KING WILL HAVE HIM KILLED. BUT NO ONE CAN DO THE THINGS THE KING TELLS HIM TO DO; SO ALL THE RAJAS AND RAJAS' SONS WHO HAVE TRIED HAVE BEEN PUT TO DEATH. YOU WILL BE KILLED TOO, IF YOU TRY. DO GO AWAY." BUT THE PRINCE WOULD NOT LISTEN TO ANYTHING SHE SAID.



THE KING SENT FOR THE PRINCE TO THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE, AND HIS SERVANTS BROUGHT THE RAJA'S SON TO THE KING'S COURT-HOUSE TO THE KING. THERE THE KING GAVE HIM EIGHTY POUNDS OF MUSTARD SEED, AND TOLD HIM TO CRUSH ALL THE OIL OUT OF IT THAT DAY, AND BRING IT NEXT MORNING TO HIM TO THE COURT-HOUSE. "WHOEVER WISHES TO MARRY MY DAUGHTER," HE SAID TO THE PRINCE, "MUST FIRST DO ALL I TELL HIM. IF HE CANNOT, THEN I HAVE HIM KILLED. SO IF YOU CANNOT CRUSH ALL THE OIL OUT OF THIS MUSTARD SEED, YOU WILL DIE."

THE PRINCE WAS VERY SORRY WHEN HE HEARD THIS. "HOW CAN I CRUSH THE OIL OUT OF ALL THIS MUSTARD SEED IN ONE DAY?" HE SAID TO HIMSELF; "AND IF I DO NOT, THE KING WILL KILL ME." HE TOOK THE MUSTARD SEED TO THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE, AND DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO. AT LAST HE REMEMBERED THE ANT-RAJA, AND THE MOMENT HE DID SO, THE ANT-RAJA AND HIS ANTS CAME TO HIM. "WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SAD?" SAID THE ANT-RAJA.

THE PRINCE SHOWED HIM THE MUSTARD SEED, AND SAID TO HIM, "HOW CAN I CRUSH THE OIL OUT OF ALL THIS MUSTARD SEED IN ONE DAY? AND IF I DO NOT TAKE THE OIL TO THE KING TO-MORROW MORNING, HE WILL KILL ME."

"BE HAPPY," SAID THE ANT-RAJA; "LIE DOWN AND SLEEP; WE WILL CRUSH ALL THE OIL OUT FOR YOU DURING THE DAY, AND TO-MORROW MORNING YOU SHALL TAKE IT TO THE KING." THE RAJA'S SON LAY DOWN AND SLEPT, AND THE ANTS CRUSHED OUT THE OIL FOR HIM. THE PRINCE WAS VERY GLAD WHEN HE SAW THE OIL.

THE NEXT MORNING HE TOOK IT TO THE COURT-HOUSE TO THE KING. BUT THE KING SAID, "YOU CANNOT YET MARRY MY DAUGHTER. IF YOU WISH TO DO SO, YOU MUST FIRST FIGHT WITH MY TWO DEMONS AND KILL THEM." THE KING A LONG TIME AGO HAD CAUGHT TWO DEMONS, AND THEN, AS HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM, HE HAD SHUT THEM UP IN A CAGE. HE WAS AFRAID TO LET THEM LOOSE FOR FEAR THEY WOULD EAT UP ALL THE PEOPLE IN HIS COUNTRY; AND HE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO KILL THEM. SO ALL THE KINGS AND KINGS' SONS WHO WANTED TO MARRY THE PRINCESS LABAM HAD TO FIGHT WITH THESE DEMONS; "FOR," SAID THE KING TO HIMSELF, "PERHAPS THE DEMONS MAY BE KILLED, AND THEN I SHALL BE RID OF THEM."

WHEN HE HEARD OF THE DEMONS THE  
RAJA'S SON WAS VERY SAD. "WHAT CAN I  
DO?" HE SAID TO HIMSELF. "HOW CAN I  
FIGHT WITH THESE TWO DEMONS?" THEN  
HE THOUGHT OF HIS TIGER: AND THE TIGER  
AND HIS WIFE CAME TO HIM AND SAID,  
"WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?" THE RAJA'S SON  
ANSWERED, "THE KING HAS ORDERED ME  
TO FIGHT WITH HIS TWO DEMONS AND KILL  
THEM. HOW CAN I DO THIS?" "DO NOT BE  
FRIGHTENED," SAID THE TIGER. "BE HAPPY.  
I AND MY WIFE WILL FIGHT WITH THEM  
FOR YOU."

THEN THE RAJA'S SON TOOK OUT OF HIS BAG TWO SPLENDID COATS. THEY WERE ALL GOLD AND SILVER, AND COVERED WITH PEARLS AND DIAMONDS. THESE HE PUT ON THE TIGERS TO MAKE THEM BEAUTIFUL, AND HE TOOK THEM TO THE KING, AND SAID TO HIM, "MAY THESE TIGERS FIGHT YOUR DEMONS FOR ME?" "YES," SAID THE KING, WHO DID NOT CARE IN THE LEAST WHO KILLED HIS DEMONS, PROVIDED THEY WERE KILLED. "THEN CALL YOUR DEMONS," SAID THE RAJA'S SON, "AND THESE TIGERS WILL FIGHT THEM." THE KING DID SO, AND THE TIGERS AND THE DEMONS FOUGHT AND FOUGHT UNTIL THE TIGERS HAD KILLED THE DEMONS.

"THAT IS GOOD," SAID THE KING. "BUT YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ELSE BEFORE I GIVE YOU MY DAUGHTER. UP IN THE SKY I HAVE A KETTLE-DRUM. YOU MUST GO AND BEAT IT. IF YOU CANNOT DO THIS, I WILL KILL YOU."

THE RAJA'S SON THOUGHT OF HIS LITTLE BED; SO HE WENT TO THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE AND SAT ON HIS BED. "LITTLE BED," HE SAID, "UP IN THE SKY IS THE KING'S KETTLE-DRUM. I WANT TO GO TO IT." THE BED FLEW UP WITH HIM, AND THE RAJA'S SON BEAT THE DRUM, AND THE KING HEARD HIM. STILL, WHEN HE CAME DOWN, THE KING WOULD NOT GIVE HIM HIS DAUGHTER. "YOU HAVE," HE SAID TO THE PRINCE, "DONE THE THREE THINGS I TOLD YOU TO DO; BUT YOU MUST DO ONE THING MORE." "IF I CAN, I WILL," SAID THE RAJA'S SON. THEN THE KING SHOWED HIM THE TRUNK OF A TREE THAT WAS LYING NEAR HIS COURT-HOUSE. IT WAS A VERY, VERY THICK TRUNK. HE GAVE THE PRINCE A WAX HATCHET, AND SAID, "TOMORROW MORNING YOU MUST CUT THIS TRUNK IN TWO WITH THIS WAX HATCHET."



THE RAJA'S SON WENT BACK TO THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE. HE WAS VERY SAD, AND THOUGHT THAT NOW THE RAJA WOULD CERTAINLY KILL HIM. "I HAD HIS OIL CRUSHED OUT BY THE ANTS," HE SAID TO HIMSELF. "I HAD HIS DEMONS KILLED BY THE TIGERS. MY BED HELPED ME TO BEAT HIS KETTLE-DRUM. BUT NOW WHAT CAN I DO? HOW CAN I CUT THAT THICK TREE-TRUNK IN TWO WITH A WAX HATCHET?" AT NIGHT HE WENT ON HIS BED TO SEE THE PRINCESS. "TO-MORROW," HE SAID TO HER, "YOUR FATHER WILL KILL ME."

"WHY?" ASKED THE PRINCESS.

"HE HAS TOLD ME TO CUT A THICK TREE-TRUNK IN TWO WITH A WAX HATCHET. HOW CAN I EVER DO THAT?" SAID THE RAJA'S SON. "DO NOT BE AFRAID," SAID THE PRINCESS; "DO AS I BID YOU, AND YOU WILL CUT IT IN TWO QUITE EASILY."

THEN SHE PULLED OUT A HAIR FROM HER HEAD, AND GAVE IT TO THE PRINCE. "TOMORROW," SHE SAID, "WHEN NO ONE IS NEAR YOU, YOU MUST SAY TO THE TREE-TRUNK, 'THE PRINCESS LABAM COMMANDS YOU TO LET YOURSELF BE CUT IN TWO BY THIS HAIR.' THEN STRETCH THE HAIR DOWN THE EDGE OF THE WAX HATCHET'S BLADE."

THE PRINCE NEXT DAY DID EXACTLY AS THE PRINCESS HAD TOLD HIM; AND THE MINUTE THE HAIR THAT WAS STRETCHED DOWN THE EDGE OF THE HATCHET-BLADE TOUCHED THE TREE-TRUNK IT SPLIT INTO TWO PIECES.

THE KING SAID, "NOW YOU CAN MARRY MY DAUGHTER." THEN THE WEDDING TOOK PLACE. ALL THE RAJAS AND KINGS OF THE COUNTRIES ROUND WERE ASKED TO COME TO IT, AND THERE WERE GREAT REJOICINGS. AFTER A FEW DAYS THE PRINCE'S SON SAID TO HIS WIFE, "LET US GO TO MY FATHER'S COUNTRY." THE PRINCESS LABAM'S FATHER GAVE THEM A QUANTITY OF CAMELS AND HORSES AND RUPEES AND SERVANTS; AND THEY TRAVELLED IN GREAT STATE TO THE PRINCE'S COUNTRY, WHERE THEY LIVED HAPPILY.

THE PRINCE ALWAYS KEPT HIS BAG, BOWL, BED, AND STICK; ONLY, AS NO ONE EVER CAME TO MAKE WAR ON HIM, HE NEVER NEEDED TO USE THE STICK.



**LOVING LAILI**

ONCE THERE WAS A KING CALLED KING DANTAL, WHO HAD A GREAT MANY RUPEES AND SOLDIERS AND HORSES. HE HAD ALSO AN ONLY SON CALLED PRINCE MAJNUN, WHO WAS A HANDSOME BOY WITH WHITE TEETH, RED LIPS, BLUE EYES, RED CHEEKS, RED HAIR, AND A WHITE SKIN. THIS BOY WAS VERY FOND OF PLAYING WITH THE WAZIR'S SON, HUSAIN MAHAMAT, IN KING DANTAL'S GARDEN, WHICH WAS VERY LARGE AND FULL OF DELICIOUS FRUITS, AND FLOWERS, AND TREES. THEY USED TO TAKE THEIR LITTLE KNIVES THERE AND CUT THE FRUITS AND EAT THEM. KING DANTAL HAD A TEACHER FOR THEM TO TEACH THEM TO READ AND WRITE.

ONE DAY, WHEN THEY WERE GROWN  
TWO FINE YOUNG MEN, PRINCE  
MAJNUN SAID TO HIS FATHER, "HUSAIN  
MAHAMAT AND I SHOULD LIKE TO GO  
AND HUNT." HIS FATHER SAID THEY  
MIGHT GO, SO THEY GOT READY THEIR  
HORSES AND ALL ELSE THEY WANTED  
FOR THEIR HUNTING, AND WENT TO  
THE PHALANA COUNTRY, HUNTING ALL  
THE WAY, BUT THEY ONLY FOUND  
JACKALS AND BIRDS.

THE RAJA OF THE PHALANA COUNTRY  
WAS CALLED MUNSUK RAJA, AND HE  
HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED LAILI, WHO  
WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL; SHE HAD  
BROWN EYES AND BLACK HAIR.

ONE NIGHT, SOME TIME BEFORE PRINCE MAJNUN CAME TO HER FATHER'S KINGDOM, AS SHE SLEPT, KHUDA SENT TO HER AN ANGEL IN THE FORM OF A MAN WHO TOLD HER THAT SHE SHOULD MARRY PRINCE MAJNUN AND NO ONE ELSE, AND THAT THIS WAS KHUDA'S COMMAND TO HER. WHEN LAILI WOKE SHE TOLD HER FATHER OF THE ANGEL'S VISIT TO HER AS SHE SLEPT; BUT HER FATHER PAID NO ATTENTION TO HER STORY. FROM THAT TIME SHE BEGAN REPEATING, "MAJNUN, MAJNUN; I WANT MAJNUN," AND WOULD SAY NOTHING ELSE. EVEN AS SHE SAT AND ATE HER FOOD SHE KEPT SAYING, "MAJNUN, MAJNUN; I WANT MAJNUN." HER FATHER USED TO GET QUITE VEXED WITH HER. "WHO IS THIS MAJNUN? WHO EVER HEARD OF THIS MAJNUN?" HE WOULD SAY.

"HE IS THE MAN I AM TO MARRY," SAID LAILI. "KHUDA HAS ORDERED ME TO MARRY NO ONE BUT MAJNUN." AND SHE WAS HALF MAD.

MEANWHILE, MAJNUN AND HUSAIN MAHAMAT CAME TO HUNT IN THE PHALANA COUNTRY; AND AS THEY WERE RIDING ABOUT, LAILI CAME OUT ON HER HORSE TO EAT THE AIR, AND RODE BEHIND THEM. ALL THE TIME SHE KEPT SAYING, "MAJNUN, MAJNUN; I WANT MAJNUN." THE PRINCE HEARD HER, AND TURNED ROUND. "WHO IS CALLING ME?" HE ASKED. AT THIS LAILI LOOKED AT HIM, AND THE MOMENT SHE SAW HIM SHE FELL DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH HIM, AND SHE SAID TO HERSELF,



"I AM SURE THAT IS THE PRINCE MAJNUN THAT KHUDA SAYS I AM TO MARRY." AND SHE WENT HOME TO HER FATHER AND SAID, "FATHER, I WISH TO MARRY THE PRINCE WHO HAS COME TO YOUR KINGDOM; FOR I KNOW HE IS THE PRINCE MAJNUN I AM TO MARRY." "VERY WELL, YOU SHALL HAVE HIM FOR YOUR HUSBAND," SAID MUNSUK RAJA. "WE WILL ASK HIM TO-MORROW." LAILI CONSENTED TO WAIT, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS VERY IMPATIENT. AS IT HAPPENED, THE PRINCE LEFT THE PHALANA KINGDOM THAT NIGHT, AND WHEN LAILI HEARD HE WAS GONE, SHE WENT QUITE MAD. SHE WOULD NOT LISTEN TO A WORD HER FATHER, OR HER MOTHER, OR HER SERVANTS SAID TO HER.

BUT WENT OFF INTO THE JUNGLE,  
AND WANDERED FROM JUNGLE TO  
JUNGLE, TILL SHE GOT FARTHER AND  
FARTHER AWAY FROM HER OWN  
COUNTRY. ALL THE TIME SHE KEPT  
SAYING, "MAJNUN, MAJNUN; I WANT  
MAJNUN;" AND SO SHE WANDERED  
ABOUT FOR TWELVE YEARS.

AT THE END OF THE TWELVE YEARS  
SHE MET A FAKIR—HE WAS REALLY AN  
ANGEL, BUT SHE DID NOT KNOW THIS  
—WHO ASKED HER, "WHY DO YOU  
ALWAYS SAY, 'MAJNUN, MAJNUN; I  
WANT MAJNUN'?" SHE ANSWERED, "I  
AM THE DAUGHTER OF THE KING OF  
THE PHALANA COUNTRY, AND I WANT  
TO FIND PRINCE MAJNUN; TELL ME  
WHERE HIS KINGDOM IS."

"I THINK YOU WILL NEVER GET THERE," SAID THE FAKIR, "FOR IT IS VERY FAR FROM HENCE, AND YOU HAVE TO CROSS MANY RIVERS TO REACH IT." BUT LAILI SAID SHE DID NOT CARE; SHE MUST SEE PRINCE MAJNUN. "WELL," SAID THE FAKIR, "WHEN YOU COME TO THE BHAGIRATHI RIVER YOU WILL SEE A BIG FISH, A ROHU; AND YOU MUST GET HIM TO CARRY YOU TO PRINCE MAJNUN'S COUNTRY, OR YOU WILL NEVER REACH IT."

SHE WENT ON AND ON, AND AT LAST SHE CAME TO THE BHAGIRATHI RIVER. THERE WAS A GREAT BIG FISH CALLED THE ROHU FISH. IT WAS YAWNING JUST AS SHE GOT UP TO IT, AND SHE INSTANTLY JUMPED DOWN ITS THROAT INTO ITS STOMACH. ALL THE TIME SHE KEPT SAYING, "MAJNUN, MAJNUN." AT THIS THE ROHU FISH WAS GREATLY ALARMED AND SWAM DOWN THE RIVER AS FAST AS HE COULD. BY DEGREES HE GOT TIRED AND WENT SLOWER, AND A CROW CAME AND PERCHED ON HIS BACK, AND SAID "CAW, CAW." "OH, MR. CROW," SAID THE POOR FISH "DO SEE WHAT IS IN MY STOMACH THAT MAKES SUCH A NOISE."

**"VERY WELL," SAID THE CROW,  
"OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE, AND I'LL  
FLY DOWN AND SEE."**

**SO THE ROHU OPENED HIS JAWS AND  
THE CROW FLEW DOWN, BUT HE CAME  
UP AGAIN VERY QUICKLY. "YOU HAVE  
A RAKSHAS IN YOUR STOMACH," SAID  
THE CROW, AND HE FLEW AWAY.**

**THIS NEWS DID NOT COMFORT THE  
POOR ROHU, AND HE SWAM ON AND  
ON TILL HE CAME TO PRINCE  
MAJNUN'S COUNTRY. THERE HE  
STOPPED. AND A JACKAL CAME DOWN  
TO THE RIVER TO DRINK. "OH,  
JACKAL," SAID THE ROHU "DO TELL  
ME WHAT I HAVE INSIDE ME."**

"HOW CAN I TELL?" SAID THE JACKAL.  
"I CANNOT SEE UNLESS I GO INSIDE  
YOU." SO THE ROHU OPENED HIS  
MOUTH WIDE, AND THE JACKAL  
JUMPED DOWN HIS THROAT; BUT HE  
CAME UP VERY QUICKLY, LOOKING  
MUCH FRIGHTENED AND SAYING, "YOU  
HAVE A RAKSHAS IN YOUR STOMACH,  
AND IF I DON'T RUN AWAY QUICKLY, I  
AM AFRAID IT WILL EAT ME." SO OFF  
HE RAN. AFTER THE JACKAL CAME AN  
ENORMOUS SNAKE. "OH," SAYS THE  
FISH, "DO TELL ME WHAT I HAVE IN  
MY STOMACH, FOR IT RATTLES ABOUT  
SO, AND KEEPS SAYING, 'MAJNUN,  
MAJNUN; I WANT MAJNUN.'"  
THE SNAKE SAID, "OPEN YOUR MOUTH  
WIDE, AND I'LL GO DOWN AND SEE  
WHAT IT IS.

" THE SNAKE WENT DOWN: WHEN HE RETURNED HE SAID, "YOU HAVE A RAKSHAS IN YOUR STOMACH, BUT IF YOU WILL LET ME CUT YOU OPEN, IT WILL COME OUT OF YOU." "IF YOU DO THAT, I SHALL DIE," SAID THE ROHU. "OH, NO," SAID THE SNAKE, "YOU WILL NOT, FOR I WILL GIVE YOU A MEDICINE THAT WILL MAKE YOU QUITE WELL AGAIN." SO THE FISH AGREED, AND THE SNAKE GOT A KNIFE AND CUT HIM OPEN, AND OUT JUMPED LAILI.

SHE WAS NOW VERY OLD. TWELVE YEARS SHE HAD WANDERED ABOUT THE JUNGLE, AND FOR TWELVE YEARS SHE HAD LIVED INSIDE HER ROHU; AND SHE WAS NO LONGER BEAUTIFUL, AND HAD LOST HER TEETH. THE SNAKE TOOK HER ON HIS BACK AND CARRIED HER INTO THE COUNTRY, AND THERE HE PUT HER DOWN, AND SHE WANDERED ON AND ON TILL SHE GOT TO MAJNUN'S COURT-HOUSE, WHERE KING MAJNUN WAS SITTING. THERE SOME MEN HEARD HER CRYING, "MAJNUN, MAJNUN; I WANT MAJNUN," AND THEY ASKED HER WHAT SHE WANTED. "I WANT KING MAJNUN," SHE SAID.



SO THEY WENT IN AND SAID TO  
PRINCE MAJNUN, "AN OLD WOMAN  
OUTSIDE SAYS SHE WANTS YOU." "I  
CANNOT LEAVE THIS PLACE," SAID HE;  
"SEND HER IN HERE." THEY BROUGHT  
HER IN AND THE PRINCE ASKED HER  
WHAT SHE WANTED. "I WANT TO  
MARRY YOU," SHE ANSWERED.

"TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO YOU  
CAME TO MY FATHER THE PHALANA  
RAJA'S COUNTRY, AND I WANTED TO  
MARRY YOU THEN; BUT YOU WENT  
AWAY WITHOUT MARRYING ME. THEN I  
WENT MAD, AND I HAVE WANDERED  
ABOUT ALL THESE YEARS LOOKING  
FOR YOU." PRINCE MAJNUN SAID,  
"VERY GOOD."

**"PRAY TO KHUDA," SAID LAILI, "TO  
MAKE US BOTH YOUNG AGAIN, AND  
THEN WE SHALL BE MARRIED." SO THE  
PRINCE PRAYED TO KHUDA, AND  
KHUDA SAID TO HIM, "TOUCH LAILI'S  
CLOTHES AND THEY WILL CATCH FIRE,  
AND WHEN THEY ARE ON FIRE, SHE  
AND YOU WILL BECOME YOUNG  
AGAIN." WHEN HE TOUCHED LAILI'S  
CLOTHES THEY CAUGHT FIRE, AND SHE  
AND HE BECAME YOUNG AGAIN. AND  
THERE WERE GREAT FEASTS, AND  
THEY WERE MARRIED, AND TRAVELLED  
TO THE PHALANA COUNTRY TO SEE  
HER FATHER AND MOTHER.**

NOW LAILI'S FATHER AND MOTHER  
HAD WEPT SO MUCH FOR THEIR  
DAUGHTER THAT THEY HAD BECOME  
QUITE BLIND, AND HER FATHER KEPT  
ALWAYS REPEATING, "LAILI, LAILI,  
LAILI." WHEN LAILI SAW THEIR  
BLINDNESS, SHE PRAYED TO KHUDA TO  
RESTORE THEIR SIGHT TO THEM,  
WHICH HE DID. AS SOON AS THE  
FATHER AND MOTHER SAW LAILI, THEY  
HUGGED HER AND KISSED HER, AND  
THEN THEY HAD THE WEDDING ALL  
OVER AGAIN AMID GREAT REJOICINGS.  
PRINCE MAJNUM AND LAILI STAYED  
WITH MUNSUK RAJA AND HIS WIFE  
FOR THREE YEARS, AND THEN THEY  
RETURNED TO KING DANTAL, AND  
LIVED HAPPILY FOR SOME TIME WITH  
HIM.

THEY USED TO GO OUT HUNTING,  
AND THEY OFTEN WENT FROM  
COUNTRY TO COUNTRY TO EAT  
THE AIR AND AMUSE THEMSELVES.

ONE DAY PRINCE MAJNUN SAID TO LAILI, "LET US GO THROUGH THIS JUNGLE." "NO, NO," SAID LAILI; "IF WE GO THROUGH THIS JUNGLE, SOME HARM WILL HAPPEN TO ME." BUT PRINCE MAJNUN LAUGHED, AND WENT INTO THE JUNGLE. AND AS THEY WERE GOING THROUGH IT, KHUDA THOUGHT, "I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MUCH PRINCE MAJNUN LOVES HIS WIFE. WOULD HE BE VERY SORRY IF SHE DIED? AND WOULD HE MARRY ANOTHER WIFE? I WILL SEE." SO HE SENT ONE OF HIS ANGELS IN THE FORM OF A FAKIR INTO THE JUNGLE;

AND THE ANGEL WENT UP TO LAILI,  
AND THREW SOME POWDER IN HER  
FACE, AND INSTANTLY SHE FELL TO  
THE GROUND A HEAP OF ASHES.

PRINCE MAJNUN WAS IN GREAT  
SORROW AND GRIEF WHEN HE SAW  
HIS DEAR LAILI TURNED INTO A  
LITTLE HEAP OF ASHES; AND HE  
WENT STRAIGHT HOME TO HIS  
FATHER, AND FOR A LONG, LONG  
TIME HE WOULD NOT BE  
COMFORTED. AFTER A GREAT MANY  
YEARS HE GREW MORE CHEERFUL  
AND HAPPY,

AND BEGAN TO GO AGAIN INTO HIS FATHER'S BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WITH HUSAIN MAHAMAT. KING DANTAL WISHED HIS SON TO MARRY AGAIN. "I WILL ONLY HAVE LAILI FOR MY WIFE; I WILL NOT MARRY ANY OTHER WOMAN," SAID PRINCE MAJNUN. "HOW CAN YOU MARRY LAILI? LAILI IS DEAD. SHE WILL NEVER COME BACK TO YOU," SAID THE FATHER. "THEN I'LL NOT HAVE ANY WIFE AT ALL," SAID PRINCE MAJNUN.

MEANWHILE LAILI WAS LIVING IN THE JUNGLE WHERE HER HUSBAND HAD LEFT HER A LITTLE HEAP OF ASHES. AS SOON AS MAJNUN HAD GONE, THE FAKIR HAD TAKEN HER ASHES AND MADE THEM QUITE CLEAN, AND THEN HE HAD MIXED CLAY AND WATER WITH THE ASHES, AND MADE THE FIGURE OF A WOMAN WITH THEM, AND SO LAILI REGAINED HER HUMAN FORM, AND KHUDA SENT LIFE INTO IT. BUT LAILI HAD BECOME ONCE MORE A HIDEOUS OLD WOMAN, WITH A LONG, LONG NOSE, AND TEETH LIKE TUSKS; JUST SUCH AN OLD WOMAN.



EXCEPTING HER TEETH, AS SHE HAD  
BEEN WHEN SHE CAME OUT OF THE  
ROHU FISH; AND SHE LIVED IN THE  
JUNGLE, AND NEITHER ATE NOR  
DRANK, AND SHE KEPT ON SAYING,  
"MAJNUN, MAJNUN; I WANT  
MAJNUN."

AT LAST THE ANGEL WHO HAD COME  
AS A FAKIR AND THROWN THE  
POWDER AT HER, SAID TO KHUDA,  
"OF WHAT USE IS IT THAT THIS  
WOMAN SHOULD SIT IN THE JUNGLE  
CRYING, CRYING FOR EVER,  
'MAJNUN, MAJNUN; I WANT  
MAJNUN,' AND EATING AND  
DRINKING NOTHING? LET ME TAKE  
HER TO PRINCE MAJNUN." "WELL,"  
SAID KHUDA, "YOU MAY DO SO; BUT  
TELL HER THAT SHE MUST NOT  
SPEAK TO MAJNUN IF HE IS AFRAID  
OF HER WHEN HE SEES HER; AND  
THAT IF HE IS AFRAID WHEN HE  
SEES HER, SHE WILL BECOME A  
LITTLE WHITE DOG THE NEXT DAY.

THEN SHE MUST GO TO THE  
PALACE, AND SHE WILL ONLY  
REGAIN HER HUMAN SHAPE WHEN  
PRINCE MAJNUN LOVES HER, FEEDS  
HER WITH HIS OWN FOOD, AND LETS  
HER SLEEP IN HIS BED."

SO THE ANGEL CAME TO LAILI  
AGAIN AS A FAKIR AND CARRIED HER  
TO KING DANTAL'S GARDEN. "NOW,"  
HE SAID, "IT IS KHUDA'S COMMAND  
THAT YOU STAY HERE TILL PRINCE  
MAJNUN COMES TO WALK IN THE  
GARDEN, AND THEN YOU MAY SHOW  
YOURSELF TO HIM. BUT YOU MUST  
NOT SPEAK TO HIM, IF HE IS AFRAID  
OF YOU; AND SHOULD HE BE AFRAID  
OF YOU, YOU WILL THE NEXT DAY  
BECOME A LITTLE WHITE DOG."

HE THEN TOLD HER WHAT SHE MUST DO AS A LITTLE DOG TO REGAIN HER HUMAN FORM. LAILI STAYED IN THE GARDEN, HIDDEN IN THE TALL GRASS, TILL PRINCE MAJNUN AND HUSAIN MAHAMAT CAME TO WALK IN THE GARDEN. KING DANTAL WAS NOW A VERY OLD MAN, AND HUSAIN MAHAMAT, THOUGH HE WAS REALLY ONLY AS OLD AS PRINCE MAJNUN, LOOKED A GREAT DEAL OLDER THAN THE PRINCE, WHO HAD BEEN MADE QUITE YOUNG AGAIN WHEN HE MARRIED LAILI.

AS PRINCE MAJNUN AND THE  
WAZIR'S SON WALKED IN THE  
GARDEN, THEY GATHERED THE  
FRUIT AS THEY HAD DONE AS LITTLE  
CHILDREN, ONLY THEY BIT THE  
FRUIT WITH THEIR TEETH; THEY DID  
NOT CUT IT. WHILE MAJNUN WAS  
BUSY EATING A FRUIT IN THIS WAY,  
AND WAS TALKING TO HUSAIN  
MAHAMAT, HE TURNED TOWARDS  
HIM AND SAW LAILI WALKING  
BEHIND THE WAZIR'S SON.

"OH, LOOK, LOOK!" HE CRIED, "SEE WHAT IS FOLLOWING YOU; IT IS A RAKSHAS OR A DEMON, AND I AM SURE IT IS GOING TO EAT US." LAILI LOOKED AT HIM BESEECHINGLY WITH ALL HER EYES, AND TREMBLED WITH AGE AND EAGERNESS; BUT THIS ONLY FRIGHTENED MAJNUN THE MORE. "IT IS A RAKSHAS, A RAKSHAS!" HE CRIED, AND HE RAN QUICKLY TO THE PALACE WITH THE WAZIR'S SON; AND AS THEY RAN AWAY, LAILI DISAPPEARED INTO THE JUNGLE. THEY RAN TO KING DANTAL,

AND MAJNUN TOLD HIM THERE WAS A RAKSHAS OR A DEMON IN THE GARDEN THAT HAD COME TO EAT THEM. "WHAT NONSENSE," SAID HIS FATHER. "FANCY TWO GROWN MEN BEING SO FRIGHTENED BY AN OLD AYAH OR A FAKIR! AND IF IT HAD BEEN A RAKSHAS, IT WOULD NOT HAVE EATEN YOU." INDEED KING DANTAL DID NOT BELIEVE MAJNUN HAD SEEN ANYTHING AT ALL, TILL HUSAIN MAHAMAT SAID THE PRINCE WAS SPEAKING THE EXACT TRUTH. THEY HAD THE GARDEN SEARCHED FOR THE TERRIBLE OLD WOMAN, BUT FOUND NOTHING, AND KING DANTAL TOLD HIS SON HE

WAS VERY SILLY TO BE SO MUCH FRIGHTENED. HOWEVER, PRINCE MAJNUN WOULD NOT WALK IN THE GARDEN ANY MORE. THE NEXT DAY LAILI TURNED INTO A PRETTY LITTLE DOG; AND IN THIS SHAPE SHE CAME INTO THE PALACE, WHERE PRINCE MAJNUN SOON BECAME VERY FOND OF HER. SHE FOLLOWED HIM EVERYWHERE, WENT WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS OUT HUNTING, AND HELPED HIM TO CATCH HIS GAME, AND PRINCE MAJNUN FED HER WITH MILK, OR BREAD, OR ANYTHING ELSE HE WAS EATING, AND AT NIGHT THE LITTLE DOG SLEPT IN HIS BED.



BUT ONE NIGHT THE LITTLE DOG  
DISAPPEARED, AND IN ITS STEAD  
THERE LAY THE LITTLE OLD WOMAN  
WHO HAD FRIGHTENED HIM SO  
MUCH IN THE GARDEN; AND NOW  
PRINCE MAJNUN WAS QUITE SURE  
SHE WAS A RAKSHAS, OR A DEMON,  
OR SOME SUCH HORRIBLE THING  
COME TO EAT HIM; AND IN HIS  
TERROR HE CRIED OUT, "WHAT DO  
YOU WANT? OH, DO NOT EAT ME; DO  
NOT EAT ME!" POOR LAILI  
ANSWERED, "DON'T YOU KNOW ME?  
I AM YOUR WIFE LAILI, AND I WANT  
TO MARRY YOU.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU WOULD GO THROUGH THAT JUNGLE, THOUGH I BEGGED AND BEGGED YOU NOT TO GO, FOR I TOLD YOU THAT HARM WOULD HAPPEN TO ME, AND THEN A FAKIR CAME AND THREW POWDER IN MY FACE, AND I BECAME A HEAP OF ASHES. BUT KHUDA GAVE ME MY LIFE AGAIN, AND BROUGHT ME HERE, AFTER I HAD STAYED A LONG, LONG WHILE IN THE JUNGLE CRYING FOR YOU, AND NOW I AM OBLIGED TO BE A LITTLE DOG; BUT IF YOU WILL MARRY ME, I SHALL NOT BE A LITTLE DOG ANY MORE."

MAJNUN, HOWEVER, SAID "HOW CAN I MARRY AN OLD WOMAN LIKE YOU? HOW CAN YOU BE LAILI? I AM SURE YOU ARE A RAKSHAS OR A DEMON COME TO EAT ME," AND HE WAS IN GREAT TERROR.

IN THE MORNING THE OLD WOMAN  
HAD TURNED INTO THE LITTLE DOG,  
AND THE PRINCE WENT TO HIS  
FATHER AND TOLD HIM ALL THAT  
HAD HAPPENED. "AN OLD WOMAN!  
AN OLD WOMAN! ALWAYS AN OLD  
WOMAN!" SAID HIS FATHER. "YOU  
DO NOTHING BUT THINK OF OLD  
WOMEN. HOW CAN A STRONG MAN  
LIKE YOU BE SO EASILY  
FRIGHTENED?" HOWEVER, WHEN HE  
SAW THAT HIS SON WAS REALLY IN  
GREAT TERROR, AND THAT HE  
REALLY BELIEVED THE OLD WOMAN  
WOULD COME BACK AT NIGHT,

HE ADVISED HIM TO SAY TO HER, "I WILL MARRY YOU IF YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF A YOUNG GIRL AGAIN. HOW CAN I MARRY SUCH AN OLD WOMAN AS YOU ARE?" THAT NIGHT AS HE LAY TREMBLING IN BED THE LITTLE OLD WOMAN LAY THERE IN PLACE OF THE DOG, CRYING "MAJNUN, MAJNUN, I WANT TO MARRY YOU. I HAVE LOVED YOU ALL THESE LONG, LONG YEARS.

WHEN I WAS IN MY FATHER'S KINGDOM A YOUNG GIRL, I KNEW OF YOU, THOUGH YOU KNEW NOTHING OF ME, AND WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MARRIED THEN IF YOU HAD NOT GONE AWAY SO SUDDENLY, AND FOR LONG, LONG YEARS I FOLLOWED YOU."

**"WELL," SAID MAJNUN, "IF YOU CAN  
MAKE YOURSELF A YOUNG GIRL  
AGAIN, I WILL MARRY YOU."**

**LAILI SAID, "OH, THAT IS QUITE EASY.  
KHUDA WILL MAKE ME A YOUNG GIRL  
AGAIN. IN TWO DAYS' TIME YOU MUST  
GO INTO THE GARDEN, AND THERE  
YOU WILL SEE A BEAUTIFUL FRUIT.  
YOU MUST GATHER IT AND BRING IT  
INTO YOUR ROOM AND CUT IT OPEN  
YOURSELF VERY GENTLY, AND YOU  
MUST NOT OPEN IT WHEN YOUR  
FATHER OR ANYBODY ELSE IS WITH  
YOU, BUT WHEN YOU ARE QUITE  
ALONE; FOR I SHALL BE IN THE FRUIT  
QUITE NAKED, WITHOUT ANY CLOTHES  
AT ALL ON." IN THE MORNING LAILI  
TOOK HER LITTLE DOG'S FORM, AND  
DISAPPEARED IN THE GARDEN.**

PRINCE MAJNUN TOLD ALL THIS TO HIS FATHER, WHO TOLD HIM TO DO ALL THE OLD WOMAN HAD BIDDEN HIM. IN TWO DAYS' TIME HE AND THE WAZIR'S SON WALKED IN THE GARDEN, AND THERE THEY SAW A LARGE, LOVELY RED FRUIT. "OH!" SAID THE PRINCE, "I WONDER SHALL I FIND MY WIFE IN THAT FRUIT." HUSAIN MAHAMAT WANTED HIM TO GATHER IT AND SEE, BUT HE WOULD NOT TILL HE HAD TOLD HIS FATHER, WHO SAID, "THAT MUST BE THE FRUIT; GO AND GATHER IT." SO MAJNUN WENT BACK AND BROKE THE FRUIT OFF ITS STALK; AND HE SAID TO HIS FATHER, "COME WITH ME TO MY ROOM WHILE I OPEN IT; I AM AFRAID TO OPEN IT ALONE, FOR PERHAPS I SHALL FIND A RAKSHAS IN IT THAT WILL EAT ME."

**"NO," SAID KING DANTAL;**

**"REMEMBER, LAILI WILL BE NAKED;  
YOU MUST GO ALONE AND DO NOT BE  
AFRAID IF, AFTER ALL, A RAKSHAS IS  
IN THE FRUIT, FOR I WILL STAY  
OUTSIDE THE DOOR, AND YOU HAVE  
ONLY TO CALL ME WITH A LOUD  
VOICE, AND I WILL COME TO YOU, SO  
THE RAKSHAS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO  
EAT YOU."**

**THEN MAJNUN TOOK THE FRUIT AND  
BEGAN TO CUT IT OPEN  
TREMBLINGLY, FOR HE SHOOK WITH  
FEAR; AND WHEN HE HAD CUT IT, OUT  
STEPPED LAILI, YOUNG AND FAR  
MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN SHE HAD  
EVER BEEN. AT THE SIGHT OF HER  
EXTREME BEAUTY, MAJNUN FELL  
BACKWARDS FAINTING ON THE  
FLOOR.**



LAILI TOOK OFF HIS TURBAN AND WOUND IT ALL ROUND HERSELF LIKE A SARI (FOR SHE HAD NO CLOTHES AT ALL ON), AND THEN SHE CALLED KING DANTAL, AND SAID TO HIM SADLY, "WHY HAS MAJNUN FALLEN DOWN LIKE THIS? WHY WILL HE NOT SPEAK TO ME? HE NEVER USED TO BE AFRAID OF ME; AND HE HAS SEEN ME SO MANY, MANY TIMES."

KING DANTAL ANSWERED, "IT IS BECAUSE YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL. YOU ARE FAR, FAR MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN YOU EVER WERE. BUT HE WILL BE VERY HAPPY DIRECTLY." THEN THE KING GOT SOME WATER, AND THEY BATHED MAJNUN'S FACE AND GAVE HIM SOME TO DRINK, AND HE SAT UP AGAIN.

THEN LAILI SAID, "WHY DID YOU FAINT? DID YOU NOT SEE I AM LAILI?"

"OH!" SAID PRINCE MAJNUN, "I SEE YOU ARE LAILI COME BACK TO ME, BUT YOUR EYES HAVE GROWN SO WONDERFULLY BEAUTIFUL, THAT I FAINTED WHEN I SAW THEM." THEN THEY WERE ALL VERY HAPPY, AND KING DANTAL HAD ALL THE DRUMS IN THE PLACE BEATEN, AND HAD ALL THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PLAYED ON, AND THEY MADE A GRAND WEDDING-FEAST, AND GAVE PRESENTS TO THE SERVANTS, AND RICE AND QUANTITIES OF RUPEES TO THE FAKIRS.

AFTER SOME TIME HAD PASSED VERY HAPPILY, PRINCE MAJNUN AND HIS WIFE WENT OUT TO EAT THE AIR. THEY RODE ON THE SAME HORSE, AND HAD ONLY A GROOM WITH THEM. THEY CAME TO ANOTHER KINGDOM, TO A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN. "WE MUST GO INTO THAT GARDEN AND SEE IT," SAID MAJNUN.

"NO, NO," SAID LAILI; "IT BELONGS TO A BAD RAJA, CHUMMAN BASA, A VERY WICKED MAN." BUT MAJNUN INSISTED ON GOING IN, AND IN SPITE OF ALL LAILI COULD SAY, HE GOT OFF THE HORSE TO LOOK AT THE FLOWERS. NOW, AS HE WAS LOOKING AT THE FLOWERS, LAILI SAW CHUMMAN BASA COMING TOWARDS THEM, AND SHE READ IN HIS EYES THAT HE MEANT TO KILL HER HUSBAND AND SEIZE HER. SO SHE SAID TO MAJNUN, "COME, COME, LET US GO; DO NOT GO NEAR THAT BAD MAN. I SEE IN HIS EYES, AND I FEEL IN MY HEART, THAT HE WILL KILL YOU TO SEIZE ME."

"WHAT NONSENSE," SAID MAJNUN. "I BELIEVE HE IS A VERY GOOD RAJA. ANYHOW, I AM SO NEAR TO HIM THAT I COULD NOT GET AWAY."

"WELL," SAID LAILI, "IT IS BETTER THAT YOU SHOULD BE KILLED THAN I, FOR IF I WERE TO BE KILLED A SECOND TIME, KHUDA WOULD NOT GIVE ME MY LIFE AGAIN; BUT I CAN BRING YOU TO LIFE IF YOU ARE KILLED." NOW CHUMMAN BASA HAD COME QUITE NEAR, AND SEEMED VERY PLEASANT, SO THOUGHT PRINCE MAJNUN; BUT WHEN HE WAS SPEAKING TO MAJNUN, HE DREW HIS SCIMITAR AND CUT OFF THE PRINCE'S HEAD AT ONE BLOW. LAILI SAT QUITE STILL ON HER HORSE, AND AS THE RAJA CAME TOWARDS HER SHE SAID, "WHY DID YOU KILL MY HUSBAND?"

**"BECAUSE I WANT TO TAKE YOU," HE  
ANSWERED.**

**"YOU CANNOT," SAID LAILI.**

**"YES, I CAN," SAID THE RAJA.**

**"TAKE ME, THEN," SAID LAILI TO  
CHUMMAN BASA; SO HE CAME QUITE  
CLOSE AND PUT OUT HIS HAND TO  
TAKE HERS TO LIFT HER OFF HER  
HORSE. BUT SHE PUT HER HAND IN  
HER POCKET AND PULLED OUT A TINY  
KNIFE, ONLY AS LONG AS HER HAND  
WAS BROAD, AND THIS KNIFE  
UNFOLDED ITSELF IN ONE INSTANT  
TILL IT WAS SUCH A LENGTH! AND  
THEN LAILI MADE A GREAT SWEEP  
WITH HER ARM AND HER LONG, LONG  
KNIFE, AND OFF CAME CHUMMAN  
BASA'S HEAD AT ONE TOUCH.**

THEN LAILI SLIPPED DOWN OFF HER HORSE, AND SHE WENT TO MAJNUN'S DEAD BODY, AND SHE CUT HER LITTLE FINGER INSIDE HER HAND STRAIGHT DOWN FROM THE TOP OF HER NAIL TO HER PALM, AND OUT OF THIS GUSHED BLOOD LIKE HEALING MEDICINE. THEN SHE PUT MAJNUN'S HEAD ON HIS SHOULDERS, AND SMEARED HER HEALING BLOOD ALL OVER THE WOUND, AND MAJNUN WOKE UP AND SAID, "WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SLEEP I HAVE HAD! WHY, I FEEL AS IF I HAD SLEPT FOR YEARS!" THEN HE GOT UP AND SAW THE RAJA'S DEAD BODY BY LAILI'S HORSE.

**"WHAT'S THAT?" SAID MAJNUN.**

**"THAT IS THE WICKED RAJA WHO  
KILLED YOU TO SEIZE ME, JUST AS I  
SAID HE WOULD."**

**"WHO KILLED HIM?" ASKED MAJNUN.**

**"I DID," ANSWERED LAILI, "AND IT  
WAS I WHO BROUGHT YOU TO LIFE."**

**"DO BRING THE POOR MAN TO LIFE IF  
YOU KNOW HOW TO DO SO," SAID  
MAJNUN.**

**"NO," SAID LAILI, "FOR HE IS A  
WICKED MAN, AND WILL TRY TO DO  
YOU HARM." BUT MAJNUN ASKED HER  
FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, AND SO  
EARNESTLY TO BRING THE WICKED  
RAJA TO LIFE, THAT AT LEAST SHE  
SAID, "JUMP UP ON THE HORSE, THEN,  
AND GO FAR AWAY WITH THE GROOM."**

"WHAT WILL YOU DO," SAID MAJNUN,  
"IF I LEAVE YOU? I CANNOT LEAVE  
YOU."

"I WILL TAKE CARE OF MYSELF," SAID  
LAILI; "BUT THIS MAN IS SO WICKED,  
HE MAY KILL YOU AGAIN IF YOU ARE  
NEAR HIM." SO MAJNUN GOT UP ON  
THE HORSE, AND HE AND THE GROOM  
WENT A LONG WAY OFF AND WAITED  
FOR LAILI. THEN SHE SET THE WICKED  
RAJA'S HEAD STRAIGHT ON HIS  
SHOULDERS, AND SHE SQUEEZED THE  
WOUND IN HER FINGER TILL A LITTLE  
BLOOD-MEDICINE CAME OUT OF IT.  
THEN SHE SMEARED THIS OVER THE  
PLACE WHERE HER KNIFE HAD PASSED,  
AND JUST AS SHE SAW THE RAJA  
OPENING HIS EYES, SHE BEGAN TO  
RUN, AND SHE RAN, AND RAN SO FAST,  
THAT SHE OUTRAN THE RAJA,



WHO TRIED TO CATCH HER; AND SHE  
SPRANG UP ON THE HORSE BEHIND  
HER HUSBAND, AND THEY RODE SO  
FAST, SO FAST, TILL THEY REACHED  
KING DANTAL'S PALACE.

THERE PRINCE MAJNUN TOLD EVERYTHING TO HIS FATHER, WHO WAS HORRIFIED AND ANGRY. "HOW LUCKY FOR YOU THAT YOU HAVE SUCH A WIFE," HE SAID. "WHY DID YOU NOT DO WHAT SHE TOLD YOU? BUT FOR HER, YOU WOULD BE NOW DEAD." THEN HE MADE A GREAT FEAST OUT OF GRATITUDE FOR HIS SON'S SAFETY, AND GAVE MANY, MANY RUPEES TO THE FAKIRS. AND HE MADE SO MUCH OF LAILI. HE LOVED HER DEARLY; HE COULD NOT DO ENOUGH FOR HER. THEN HE BUILT A SPLENDID PALACE FOR HER AND HIS SON, WITH A GREAT DEAL OF GROUND ABOUT IT,

AND LOVELY GARDENS, AND GAVE  
THEM GREAT WEALTH, AND HEAPS OF  
SERVANTS TO WAIT ON THEM. BUT HE  
WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY BUT THEIR  
SERVANTS TO ENTER THEIR GARDENS  
AND PALACE, AND HE WOULD NOT  
ALLOW MAJNUN TO GO OUT OF THEM,  
NOR LAILI; "FOR," SAID KING DANTAL,  
"LAILI IS SO BEAUTIFUL, THAT  
PERHAPS SOME ONE MAY KILL MY SON  
TO TAKE HER AWAY."

**THE TIGER, THE  
BRAHMAN, AND THE  
JACKAL**



ONCE UPON A TIME, A  
TIGER WAS CAUGHT IN A  
TRAP. HE TRIED IN VAIN  
TO GET OUT THROUGH  
THE BARS, AND ROLLED  
AND BIT WITH RAGE AND  
GRIEF WHEN HE FAILED.

BY CHANCE A POOR  
BRAHMAN CAME BY.  
"LET ME OUT OF THIS  
CAGE, OH PIOUS ONE!"  
CRIED THE TIGER.

**"NAY, MY FRIEND,"  
REPLIED THE BRAHMAN  
MILDLY, "YOU WOULD  
PROBABLY EAT ME IF I  
DID."**

**"NOT AT ALL!" SWORE THE  
TIGER WITH MANY OATHS; "ON  
THE CONTRARY, I SHOULD BE  
FOR EVER GRATEFUL, AND  
SERVE YOU AS A SLAVE!"**

NOW WHEN THE TIGER SOBBED  
AND SIGHED AND WEPT AND  
SWORE, THE PIOUS BRAHMAN'S  
HEART SOFTENED, AND AT LAST  
HE CONSENTED TO OPEN THE  
DOOR OF THE CAGE. OUT POPPED  
THE TIGER, AND, SEIZING THE  
POOR MAN, CRIED, "WHAT A FOOL  
YOU ARE! WHAT IS TO PREVENT  
MY EATING YOU NOW, FOR AFTER  
BEING COOPED UP SO LONG I AM  
JUST TERRIBLY HUNGRY!"



**IN VAIN THE BRAHMAN PLEADED FOR HIS LIFE; THE MOST HE COULD GAIN WAS A PROMISE TO ABIDE BY THE DECISION OF THE FIRST THREE THINGS HE CHOSE TO QUESTION AS TO THE JUSTICE OF THE TIGER'S ACTION.**

**SO THE BRAHMAN FIRST ASKED A PIPAL TREE WHAT IT THOUGHT OF THE MATTER, BUT THE PIPAL TREE REPLIED COLDLY, "WHAT HAVE YOU TO COMPLAIN ABOUT? DON'T I GIVE SHADE AND SHELTER TO EVERY ONE WHO PASSES BY, AND DON'T THEY IN RETURN TEAR DOWN MY BRANCHES TO FEED THEIR CATTLE? DON'T WHIMPER—BE A MAN!"**

THEN THE BRAHMAN, SAD AT  
HEART, WENT FURTHER  
AFIELD TILL HE SAW A  
BUFFALO TURNING A WELL-  
WHEEL; BUT HE FARED NO  
BETTER FROM IT, FOR IT  
ANSWERED, "YOU ARE A FOOL  
TO EXPECT GRATITUDE! LOOK  
AT ME! WHILST I GAVE MILK  
THEY FED ME ON COTTON-  
SEED AND OIL-CAKE, BUT NOW  
I AM DRY THEY YOKE ME HERE,  
AND GIVE ME REFUSE AS  
FODDER!"

THE BRAHMAN, STILL MORE  
SAD, ASKED THE ROAD TO GIVE  
HIM ITS OPINION.

**"MY DEAR SIR," SAID THE ROAD, "HOW  
FOOLISH YOU ARE TO EXPECT  
ANYTHING ELSE! HERE AM I, USEFUL  
TO EVERYBODY, YET ALL, RICH AND  
POOR, GREAT AND SMALL, TRAMPLE  
ON ME AS THEY GO PAST, GIVING ME  
NOTHING BUT THE ASHES OF THEIR  
PIPES AND THE HUSKS OF THEIR  
GRAIN!"**

**ON THIS THE BRAHMAN TURNED BACK  
SORROWFULLY, AND ON THE WAY HE  
MET A JACKAL, WHO CALLED OUT,  
"WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER, MR.  
BRAHMAN? YOU LOOK AS MISERABLE  
AS A FISH OUT OF WATER!"**

THE BRAHMAN TOLD HIM ALL THAT  
HAD OCCURRED. "HOW VERY  
CONFUSING!" SAID THE JACKAL, WHEN  
THE RECITAL WAS ENDED: "WOULD  
YOU MIND TELLING ME OVER AGAIN,  
FOR EVERYTHING HAS GOT SO MIXED  
UP?"

THE BRAHMAN TOLD IT ALL OVER  
AGAIN, BUT THE JACKAL SHOOK HIS  
HEAD IN A DISTRACTED SORT OF WAY,  
AND STILL COULD NOT UNDERSTAND.  
"IT'S VERY ODD," SAID HE, SADLY,  
"BUT IT ALL SEEMS TO GO IN AT ONE  
EAR AND OUT AT THE OTHER! I WILL  
GO TO THE PLACE WHERE IT ALL  
HAPPENED, AND THEN PERHAPS I  
SHALL BE ABLE TO GIVE A  
JUDGMENT."

SO THEY RETURNED TO THE CAGE, BY WHICH THE TIGER WAS WAITING FOR THE BRAHMAN, AND SHARPENING HIS TEETH AND CLAWS.

"YOU'VE BEEN AWAY A LONG TIME!" GROWLED THE SAVAGE BEAST, "BUT NOW LET US BEGIN OUR DINNER."

"OUR DINNER!" THOUGHT THE WRETCHED BRAHMAN, AS HIS KNEES KNOCKED TOGETHER WITH FRIGHT; "WHAT A REMARKABLY DELICATE WAY OF PUTTING IT!"

"GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES, MY LORD!" HE PLEADED, "IN ORDER THAT I MAY EXPLAIN MATTERS TO THE JACKAL HERE, WHO IS SOMEWHAT SLOW IN HIS WITS."

THE TIGER CONSENTED, AND THE BRAHMAN BEGAN THE WHOLE STORY OVER AGAIN, NOT MISSING A SINGLE DETAIL, AND SPINNING AS LONG A YARN AS POSSIBLE.

"OH, MY POOR BRAIN! OH, MY POOR BRAIN!" CRIED THE JACKAL, WRINGING ITS PAWS. "LET ME SEE! HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN? YOU WERE IN THE CAGE, AND THE TIGER CAME WALKING BY  
——"

"POOH!" INTERRUPTED THE TIGER, "WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE! I WAS IN THE CAGE."

"OF COURSE!" CRIED THE JACKAL, PRETENDING TO TREMBLE WITH FRIGHT; "YES! I WAS IN THE CAGE—NO I WASN'T—DEAR! DEAR! WHERE ARE MY WITS? LET ME SEE—THE TIGER WAS IN THE BRAHMAN, AND THE CAGE CAME WALKING BY——NO, THAT'S NOT IT, EITHER! WELL, DON'T MIND ME, BUT BEGIN YOUR DINNER, FOR I SHALL NEVER UNDERSTAND!"

**"YES, YOU SHALL!"**  
**RETURNED THE TIGER, IN**  
**A RAGE AT THE JACKAL'S**  
**STUPIDITY: "I'LL MAKE**  
**YOU UNDERSTAND! LOOK**  
**HERE—I AM THE TIGER**  
**——"**

**"YES, MY LORD!"**  
**"AND THAT IS THE**  
**BRAHMAN——"**

**"YES, MY LORD!"**

**"AND THAT IS THE CAGE——"**

**"YES, MY LORD!"**

**"AND I WAS IN THE CAGE—DO  
YOU UNDERSTAND?"**

**"YES—NO—— PLEASE, MY  
LORD——"**

**"WELL?" CRIED THE TIGER  
IMPATIENTLY.**

**"PLEASE, MY LORD!—HOW DID  
YOU GET IN?"**

**"HOW!—WHY IN THE USUAL  
WAY, OF COURSE!"**



**"OH, DEAR ME!—MY HEAD IS  
BEGINNING TO WHIRL AGAIN!  
PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY, MY  
LORD, BUT WHAT IS THE  
USUAL WAY?"**

**AT THIS THE TIGER LOST  
PATIENCE, AND, JUMPING INTO  
THE CAGE, CRIED, "THIS WAY!  
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND  
HOW IT WAS?"**

**"PERFECTLY!" GRINNED THE  
JACKAL, AS HE DEXTEROUSLY  
SHUT THE DOOR, "AND IF YOU  
WILL PERMIT ME TO SAY SO, I  
THINK MATTERS WILL REMAIN  
AS THEY WERE!"**